

Working Together to Support Health Equity: Ensuring Inclusion of LGBTQ Communities

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Why are we discussing LGBTQ Communities ?

- Multiple health disparities – both in access and in culturally competent care
- Discrimination and Stigma creating conditions impacting:
 - Socioeconomic Status
 - Housing Access
 - Risk for violence death, physical and sexual assault, and abuse
 - Increased risk of suicide attempts, 2-3 times the general population for LGB populations & 9 times for transgender populations
 - Low rates of access to health care coverage
 - Increased rates of HIV – and the corresponding need to access medication in a disaster

LGBTQ Disparities of Importance in Climate Change

- Disproportionate Poverty Rate when compared to the general population, which increases when the person is a member of other marginalized groups.
- Disproportionate rates of homelessness and housing instability
- Disproportionately experience violence – particularly transgender individuals. Black trans women are especially at risk.
- Elderly LGBT individuals face increased risk of isolation and a lack of social services and culturally competent providers. This may make them harder to find in an emergency.
- Early studies show that LGBTQ communities are at increased risk for harms from hazardous air pollution, but also find that there is a lack of research into the harms from climate change experienced by this population.

Housing Access and Homelessness as an Example of Impact

- LGBTQ youth represent 40% of homeless youth
- LGBTQ adults are also disproportionately experiencing homelessness and housing stability
- When seeking services, LGBTQ people are more at risk for:
 - Experiencing violence and abuse
 - Experiencing exploitation
 - Experiencing discrimination while in service
- Transgender youth and adults have additional risks
 - Increased risk of violence and abuse
 - Exclusion from shelters
 - Inappropriate care (not congruent with their gender) provided when available

Beyond Research – On the Ground Needs

“Preparedness planners often discuss and think about vulnerable populations like seniors, people with disabilities, or people with limited English proficiency, and the planning concerns that need to be considered in order to inclusively plan for the needs of the whole community. Considerations for the LGBT+ community often haven’t been included in these plans, even though LGBT+ people may be particularly vulnerable following a disaster.”

Specific Concerns

- LGBTQ populations experience the same disproportionate harms as other communities disparately harmed by climate change but are not often discussed.
- Shelters and emergency responders are often not trained in the specific needs and culture of LGBTQ communities.
- Transgender people are at particular risk – shelters which are separated by gender often have no training in culturally competent care. Bathrooms are often gendered and in some localities there are no protections for use of the bathroom that conforms to the persons gender identity.
- A recent systemic analysis of published studies on the risk of gender-based violence impacted by disasters caused by climate change found evidence that LGBTQ populations are disparately impacted, but as with other studies suggested additional research is needed.

Case Example – Hurricane Katrina

- Gay community was blamed by a religious leader with a large following for the hurricane
- Same-sex couples (pre-overturning DOMA and changes to the interpretation of protections in Section 308 of the Stafford Act) were denied benefits through FEMA
- Transgender people experienced threats in shelters or were simply denied services
- LGBTQ people experience violence in shelters based on their LGBTQ status

Issues of Specific Concern for People who are Transgender, Nonbinary, or otherwise Gender Diverse

- Medical
 - Some, though not all, transgender people require hormones as a part of their care. This can involve the need to access clean syringes and access to medications which are scheduled drugs, making having a 30 day supply for emergencies difficult.
 - Some transgender people require items like binders or dilators. If these are lost in an emergency situation, it is critical that providers understand the importance of these items and not minimize the need
- Legal
 - Some transgender people have identification documents that do not comport with their gender identity and/or presentation. Those working in emergency situations need to understand the issue and work with them regardless of documentation.
 - If groups are working with this population for preparedness, it is recommended they get documentation from their physician. Workers on the ground can help facilitate this process.

Progress

- Advocacy organizations such as the National Center for Transgender Equity, National LGBT Health Education Center of the Fenway Institute, the Human Rights Campaign have all created education resources for both LGBTQ people and those serving them in emergencies
- FEMA has updated its definitions of equity and its equity action plan to include sexual and gender minorities.
- The US Commission of Civil Rights included LGBTQ populations in its 2022 study of the response to Hurricanes Harvey and Maria
- There is more to be done



THE HUMAN RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN IS THE LARGEST ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY WORKING TO ADVANCE THE RIGHTS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER AMERICANS.

SERVING LGBT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN A DISASTER

WHAT DOES LGBT MEAN?

The term LGBT refers to individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

- ❑ Lesbian refers to a woman who is emotionally, romantically, sexually and relationally attracted to other women.
- ❑ Gay refers to a man or a woman who is emotionally, romantically, sexually and relationally attracted to members of the same sex.
- ❑ Bisexual refers to an individual who is emotionally, romantically, sexually and relationally attracted to both men and women.
- ❑ Transgender can be used to describe an individual whose gender identity, expression or behavior is different from those typically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth. A transgender man is an individual who was born female, but identifies and lives as a man. A transgender woman is an individual who was born male, but identifies and lives as a woman.

ARE THERE LGBT INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES IN MY COMMUNITY?

Yes. Partnered same-sex couples live in 99.3% of U.S. counties and more than a quarter of a million children are being raised by same-sex couples. Gay couples in southern states like Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas are the most likely to be raising children. Surveys have shown that transgender individuals make up between 1% and 1% of the U.S. population. Transgender individuals live in every region of the U.S., including rural areas and small towns.

HOW SHOULD I TREAT LGBT FAMILIES?

After a disaster, LGBT families experience additional stress because of a lack of recognition or fear of discrimination. If a lesbian or gay couple present themselves as a family, you should treat them as you would treat any other family. Refrain from asking questions that you do not ask other families. Only ask questions necessary to provide for the needs of the family.

HOW SHOULD I TREAT TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS?

If someone tells you that he or she is transgender, respect the individual's stated self-identified gender. You may ask which pronouns the individual prefers you to use. Do not ask questions that are not relevant to providing emergency services. Do not share or discuss an individual's transgender status with other evacuees. Only disclose this information to other volunteers or supervisors as necessary to provide services to the individual.

Transgender individuals should have access to housing, restrooms and shower facilities that are consistent with their self-identified gender, or those that feel safest for them. Some transgender individuals may not have matching or updated identification that reflects their gender identity.

ARE THERE LGBT SENIORS IN MY COMMUNITY?

Yes. There are senior same-sex couples living in 27% of counties in the U.S. LGBT seniors may be more afraid of discrimination and less likely to openly identify as LGBT.

HOW SHOULD I TREAT LGBT SENIORS?

If two elderly women or two elderly men tell you they are a couple, treat them as a couple. You can alleviate fears of discrimination by treating LGBT senior citizens with respect and compassion. LGBT senior citizens may have a "chosen family" comprised of close friends who are not necessarily biologically related.

HOW CAN I MAKE SURE THAT LGBT INDIVIDUALS ARE SAFE?

LGBT individuals may be more vulnerable to abuse in an emergency shelter. All reports of harassment should be investigated and reported to the shelter supervisor. If you witness harassment or intimidation intervene if possible.

WHAT ARE SPECIFIC MEDICAL NEEDS OF TRANSGENDER EVACUEES?

Some transgender individuals must have access to prescription medication known as hormone therapy. You should consult with the evacuee to ensure that the individual has enough doses of any necessary medication to last throughout the anticipated displacement. If not, you should direct the evacuee to the medical staff or nursing station that is providing other medically necessary prescription drugs. Failure to provide this treatment can lead to serious health effects.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF SOMEONE TELLS ME THEY HAVE HIV/AIDS?

Treat the individual fairly and with respect. It is unlawful to discriminate against someone because he or she has HIV or AIDS. In addition, you should ensure that the individual has all of his or her prescribed medication. If the individual does not have the necessary prescribed medication, you may direct the individual to the medical staff or nursing center. Do not disclose an individual's HIV/AIDS status to other evacuees or volunteers.

Example from
the Human
Rights Campaign

Considerations for Moving Forward with LGBTQ Inclusion

- Ensure LGBTQ representation in planning committees
- Inclusion of LGBTQ populations in research on impact of climate change
- Advocate for policies that specifically include sexual orientation and gender identity in antidiscrimination provisions
- Provide trainings in LGBTQ specific needs to emergency planners and providers including:
 - Importance of culturally competent emergency services – beyond simple non-discrimination
 - Medical needs of some transgender individuals (access to hormones, binders, and other needs and why it matters)
 - An understanding of the risk of violence and ways to minimize the risk in shelters and other emergency situations

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Resources

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- Human Rights Campaign. (2012). *Working with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community: A Cultural Competence Guide for Emergency Responders and Volunteers*. [https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/EmergencyResponders - LGBT Competency.pdf](https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/EmergencyResponders_-_LGBT_Competyency.pdf)

Questions?



“It’s hard to give hope sometimes”:

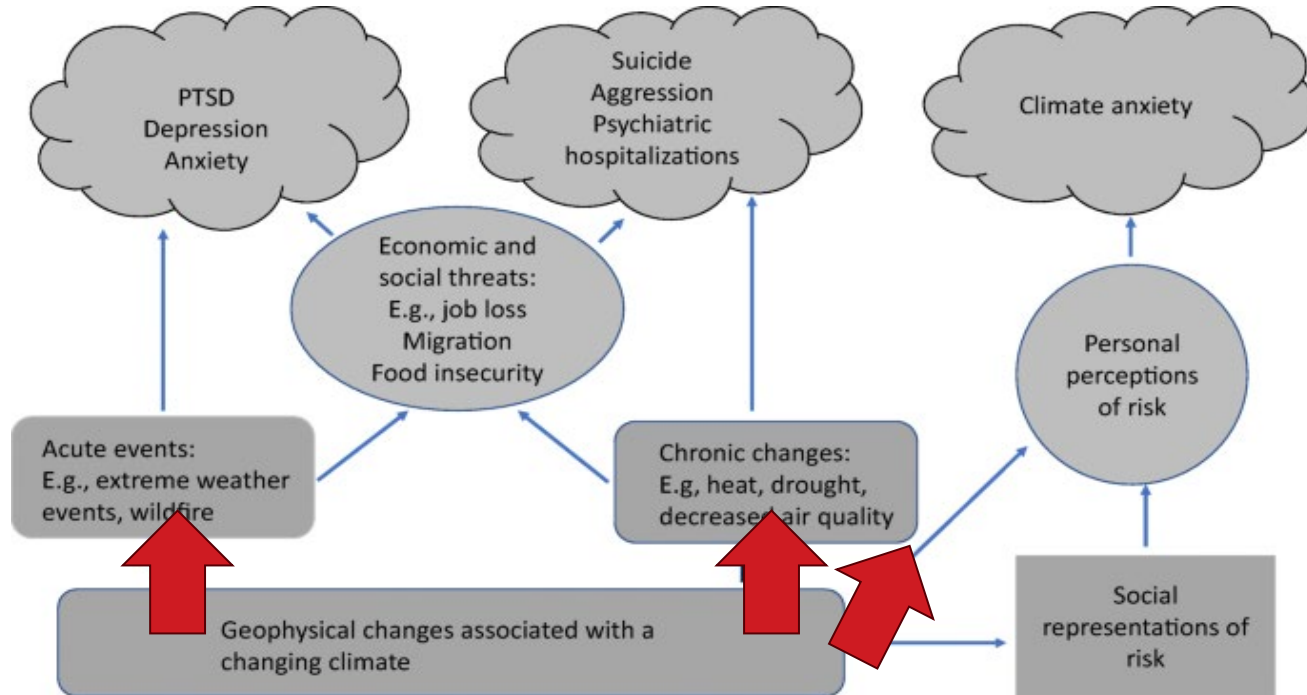
Climate change, mental health and the challenges for mental health professionals

Brenda O. Hoppe, PhD

NPHL Summit

October 13, 2022

Climate change & mental health pathways



Clayton S. Climate anxiety: Psychological responses to climate change. J Anxiety Disord. 2020



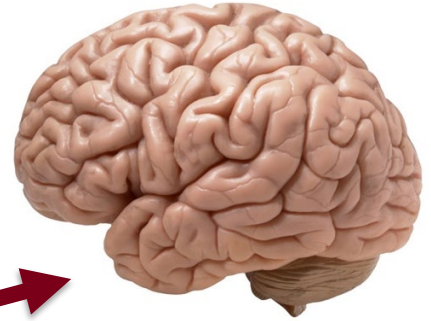
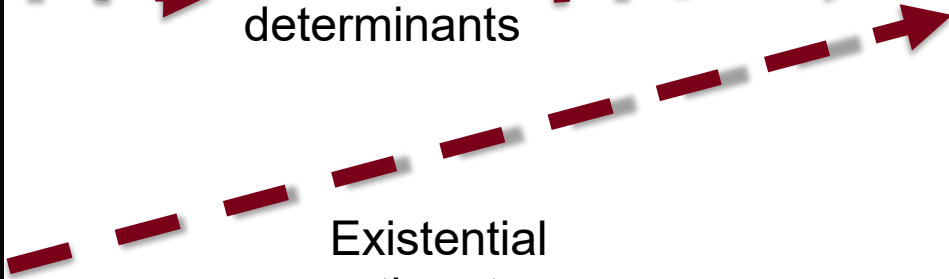
Climate hazards



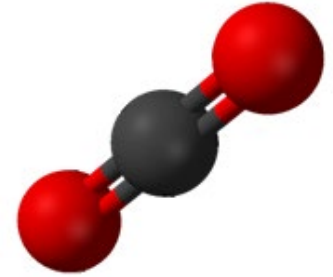
Health determinants



Existential threat



Climate change is here to stay.



- CO₂ hangs around for a long time - between 300-1000 years.
- ~50 years between emission and impact
 - CHANGES NOW ARE TIP OF THE ICEBERG
- Accounts for 75% of the warming impact of current human GHG emissions



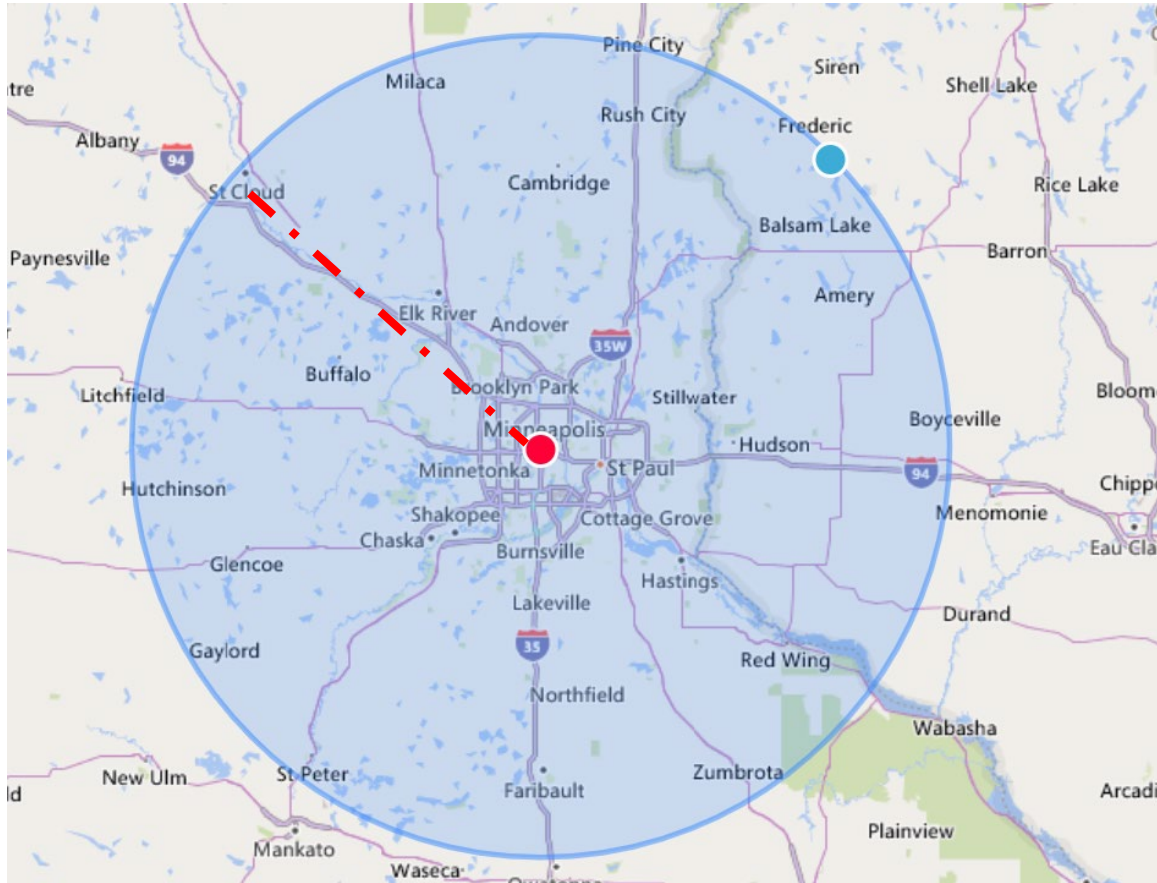


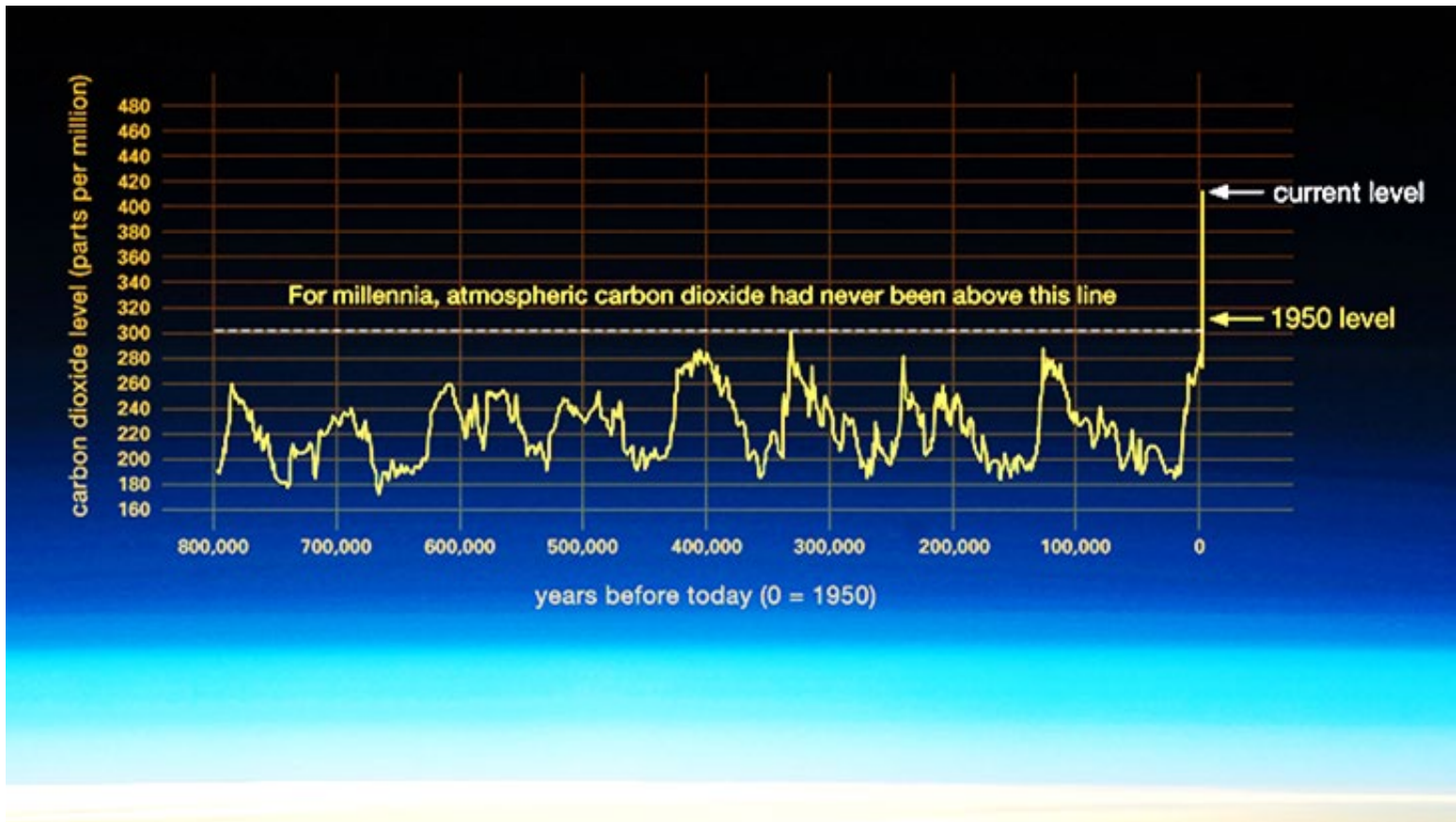
Gravity keeps
emissions
close to earth.

VERY close ~
60 miles

Seen from space, the edge of the Earth is blurred by the pale blue atmosphere. Most dense at the surface, the atmosphere thins with altitude, until it gradually merges with vacuum.

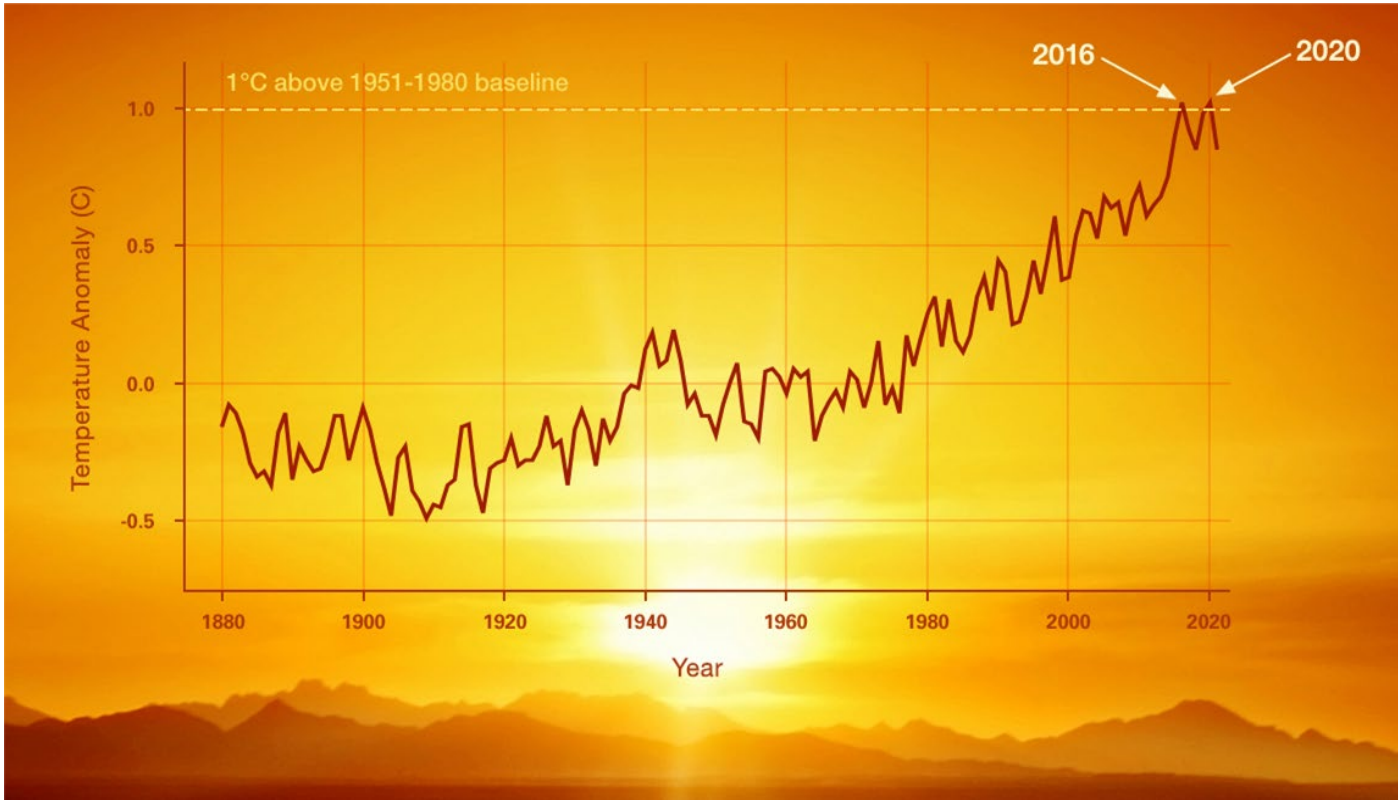
Source: NASA, https://ozonewatch.gsfc.nasa.gov/facts/dobson_SH.html





Source: https://earth.org/data_visualization/a-brief-history-of-co2/





Source: NASA, <https://climate.nasa.gov/global-warming-vs-climate-change/>



Survey of 10,000 youth from 10 nations

- $\frac{3}{4}$ felt that the “future is frightening”
- 60% felt “very worried” or “extremely worried”
- $\frac{1}{2}$ said they experienced climate anxiety to a degree that affected their daily lives
- $\frac{1}{4}$ indicated fear about having children due to the climate crisis.

Hickman C, Marks E, Pihkala P, Clayton S, Lewandowski RE, Mayall EE, Wray B, Mellor C, van Susteren L. Climate anxiety in children and young people and their beliefs about government responses to climate change: a global survey. Lancet Planet Health. 2021





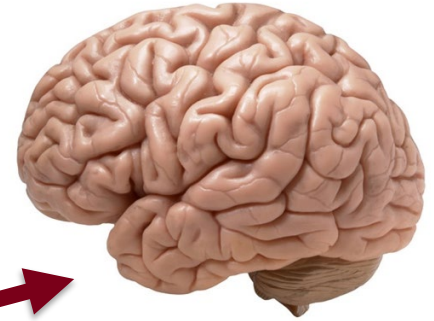
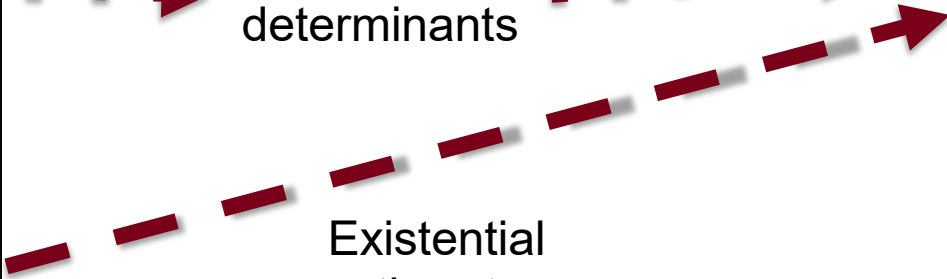
Climate hazards



Health determinants



Existential threat



***“It's Hard to Give Hope Sometimes”*: Climate Change, Mental Health, and the Challenges for Mental Health Professionals**

Brendalynn O. Hoppe  , Leah Prussia, Christie Manning, Kristin K. Raab, and Kelsey V. Jones-Casey

Study Aims

- Is CC impacting MH?
- How is CC impacting MH?
- Who is being impacted?
- What can be done to increase ability of MHPs to provide effective care?



Study Team

- Dr. Leah Prussia, College of St Scholastica
- Dr. Christie Manning, Macalester College
- Dr. Brenda Hoppe, UMN Climate Adaptation Partnership
- Kristin Raab, MN Dept of Health
- Kelsey Jones-Casey, Lakehead University
- **MN Mental Health Professionals!**

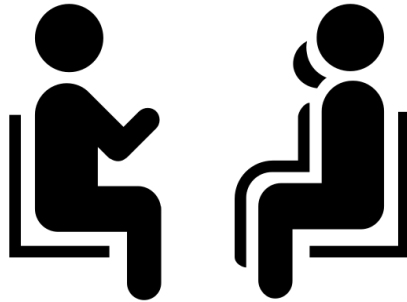


Source: USDA, Wikicommons



Challenges

- CC is not the only crisis
- Longstanding workforce shortage & other gaps
- Needs lagging behind awareness



Strengths

- MHPs well-positioned to comment on CC & MH impacts
- Broad range of MHP respondents
- Actionable feedback to advance MHP capacity

Source: Wikicommons



KAP Survey

- Knowledge, Attitudes & Practice
- Oct-Nov 2019 (delays due to Covid)
- 54 questions:
- Socio-demographics of provider and client base
- Knowledge, attitudes on CC & MH impacts
- Practice behaviors and experience regarding CC impacts
- Access, needs regarding professional resources



Graphic source: [Tungilik](#), Wikicommons



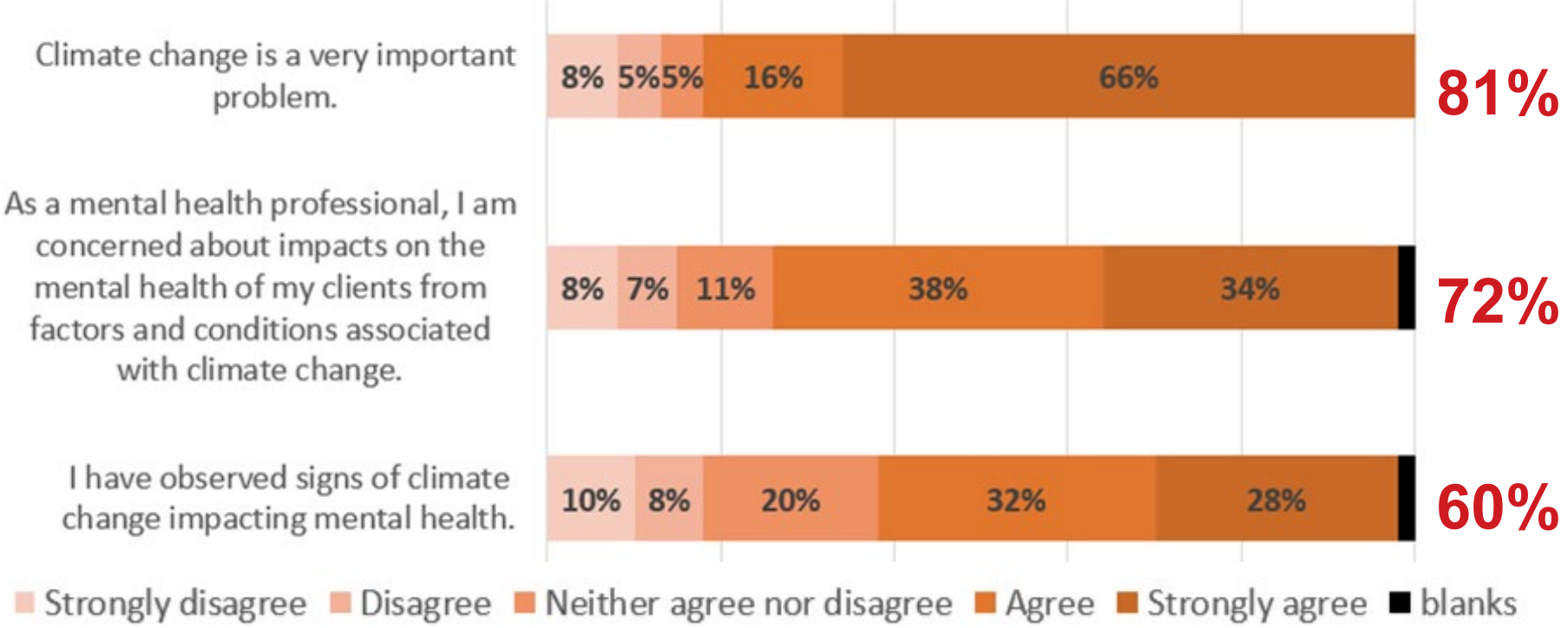
Results: Who did we hear from?

- 500+ licensed, active practice
- Mostly psychologists, social workers with 15+ years experience
- Most serve adults, 42% serve mainly children or mix of both
- Most serve urban, suburban areas (23% rural, 4% tribal)

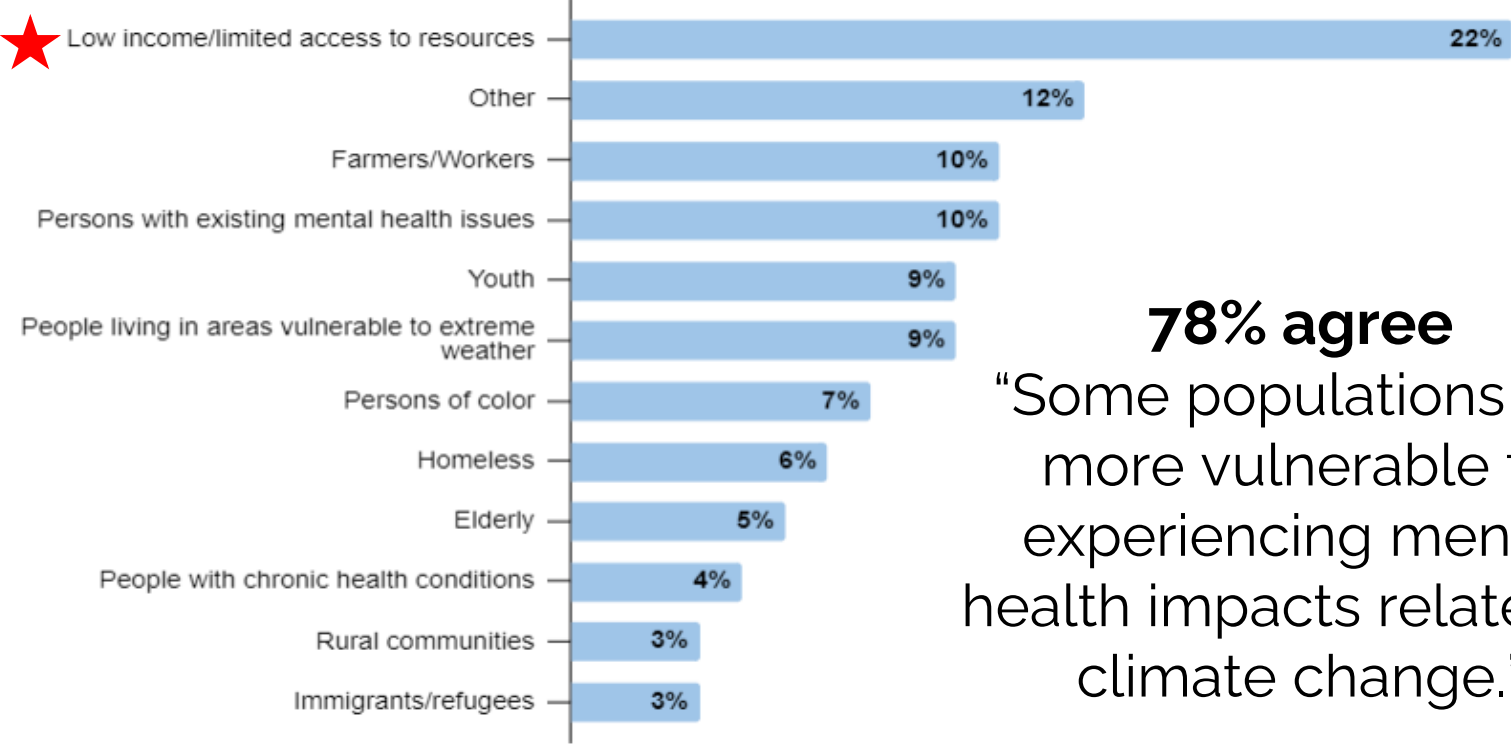


Photo source: [Ygt06kbr](#), Wikicommons

Results: Knowledge & Attitudes

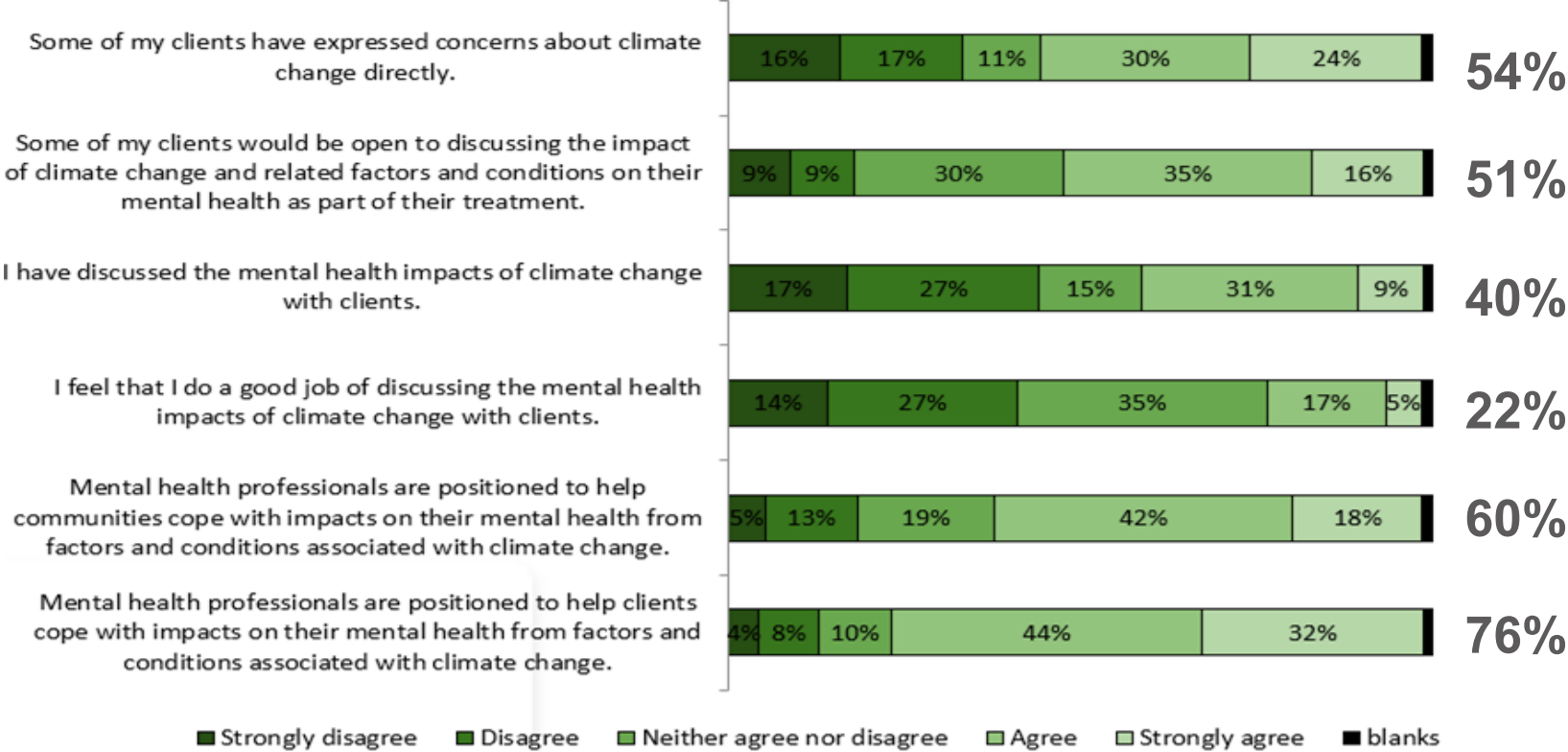


Results: Knowledge & Attitudes

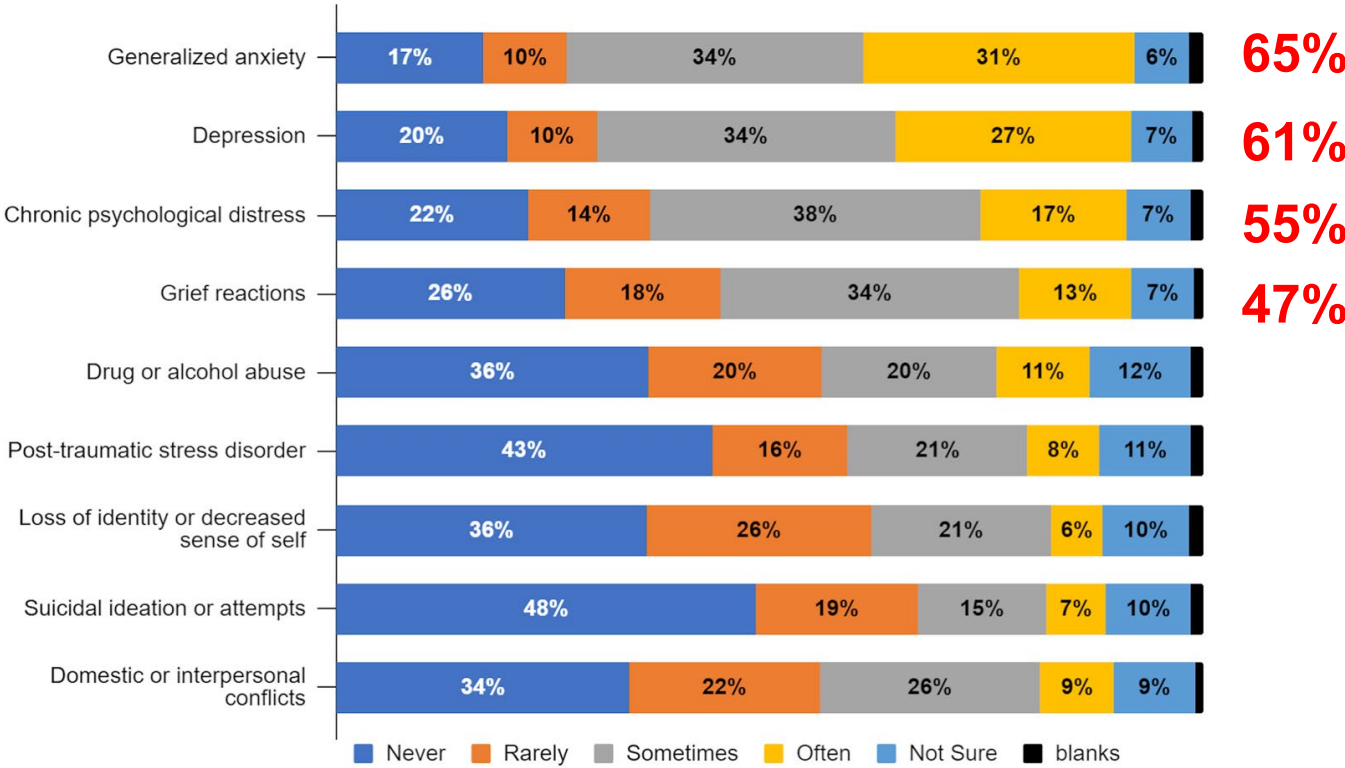


78% agree
“Some populations are more vulnerable to experiencing mental health impacts related to climate change.”

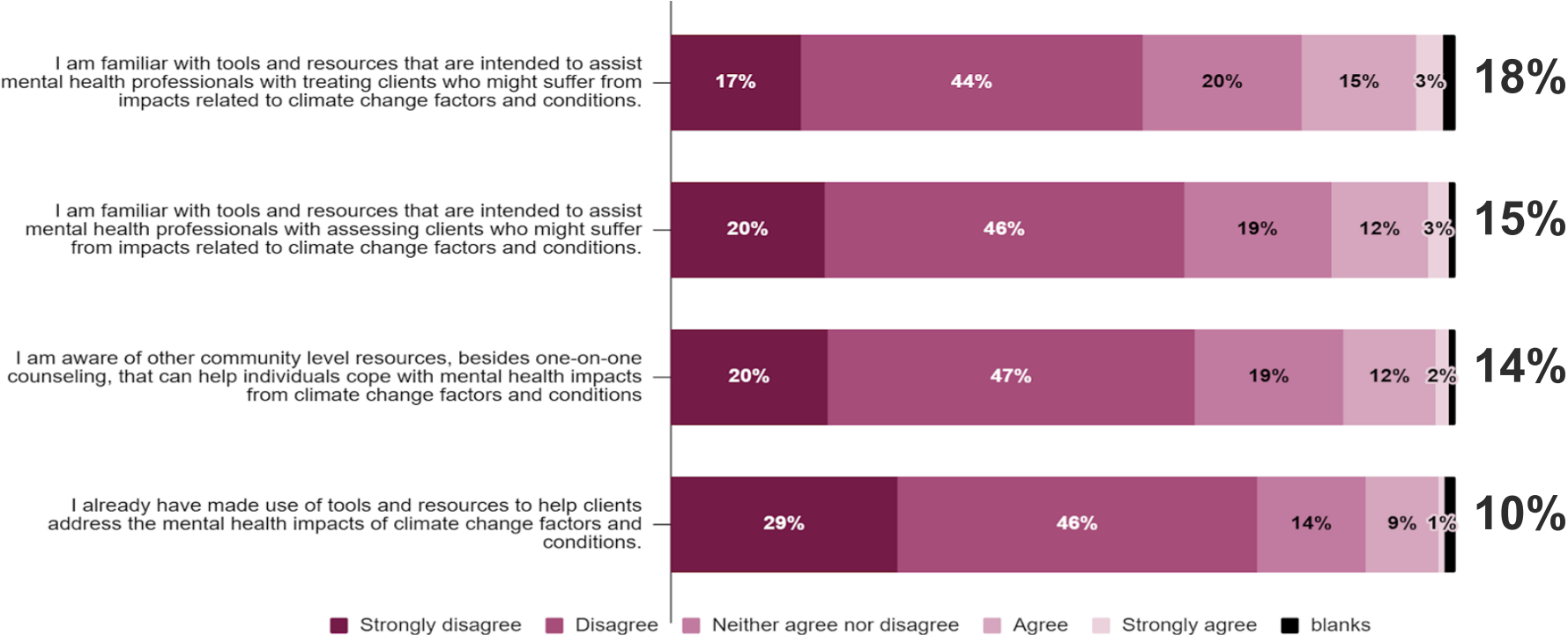
Results: Practice Experiences



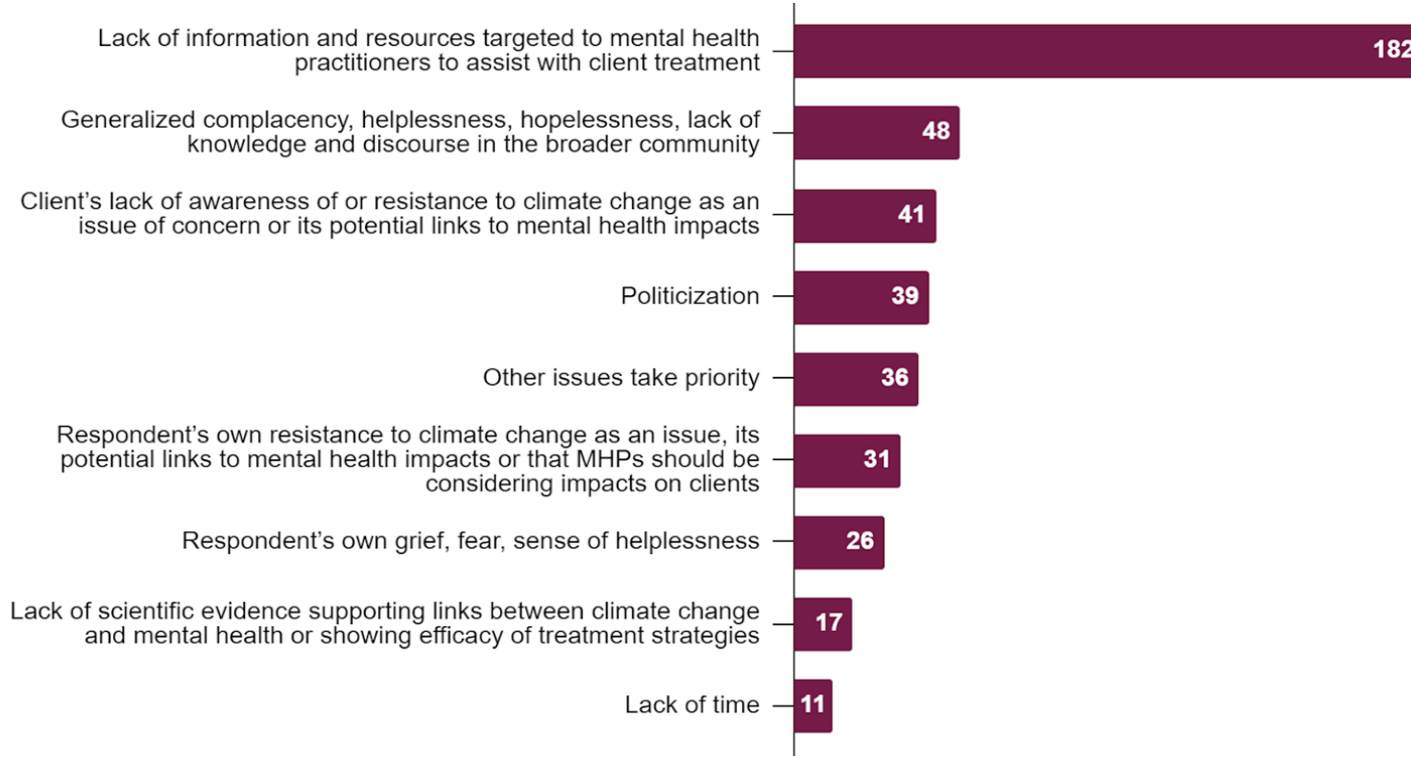
Results: Practice Experiences



Results: Support Needs

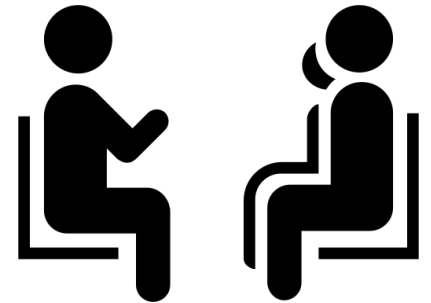


Results: Support Needs



Lessons Learned for MHPs

- MHPs are concerned, already seeing impacts.
- Low income are especially vulnerable.
- MHPs agree they have a role with clients and communities.
- Clients open to targeted treatment, but MHPs feel unprepared and need more support.



Source: Wikicommons



Climate & Community Mental Health Symposium

April 1st, 2022 hosted by St. Scholastica with MCAP, Macalester College, and NAMI to convene experts with MHPs, exchange information and facilitate discussion on professional needs and challenges.



Dr. Katie Hayes: “Active Hope” (Macy & Johnstone)

“Active hope is required to move hopeful intentions from a passive state where waiting for someone else to take-on the task of addressing the climate change problem is replaced with an active process of climate change mitigation and adaptation behaviours....hope alone cannot provide sufficient protection from the escalating risks of climate change.

This active process occurs when the reality of the problem is acknowledged as is the magnitude of the problem, intentions to address the problem are set, and engaged actions take place.”

Hayes K.et al. Climate change and mental health: risks, impacts and priority actions. Int J Ment Health Syst 12, 28 (2018).



Citizen Science for Activating Hope

Minnesota leading the way in signing up new volunteer weather observers

Andrew Krueger March 23, 2022



NWS Twin Cities
@NWSTwinCities · Follow

Looking for a fun STEM activity for kids? Children are welcome to participate in CoCoRaHS! Many families & schools have signed up as weather observers. Free training is provided online. Join [@CoCoRaHS](#) today at cocorahs.org More info: weather.gov/mpx/2022cocora... [#mnwx](#) [#wiwx](#)

RIVER FALLS GARDEN CLUB

HOME ABOUT



Air, Water,
Land, Climate

Get Engaged

Volunteer water monitoring



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Minnesota Master Naturalist

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Welcome to the Minnesota Master Naturalist Program!

The mission of the Minnesota Master Naturalist Program is to promote awareness, understanding, and stewardship of Minnesota's natural environment by developing a corps of well-informed citizens dedicated to conservation education and service within their communities.



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Driven to Discover™

Climate Adaptation Partnership

Thank you!
bhoppe@umn.edu



Graphic source: [Tommaso.sansone91](#), wikicommons

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2022

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW
SUMMIT

Climate Change and Health Equity

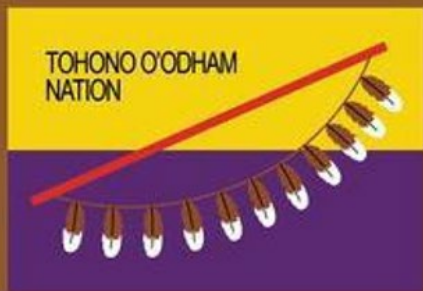
October
12-14

Equitable strengthening public health networks to serve those most vulnerable to climate-sensitive hazards

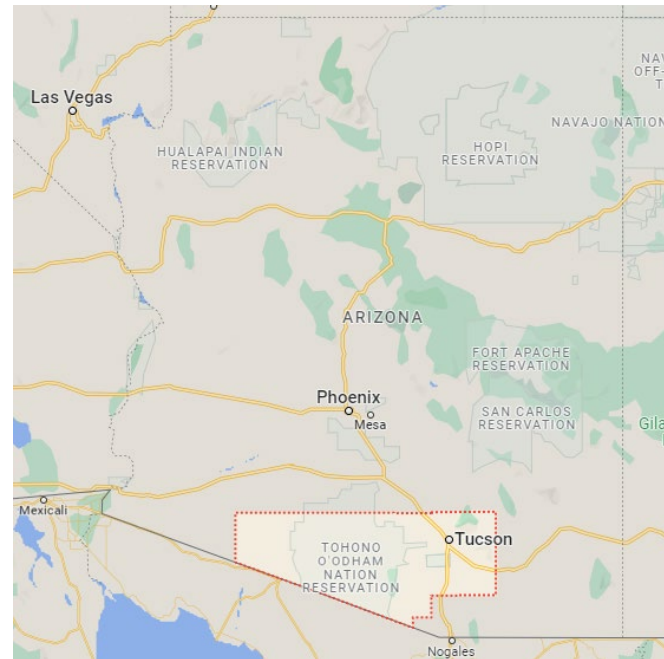
Joe Tabor, Epidemiologist

Pima County Health Department, Tucson AZ

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/joetabor/>



On behalf of Pima County residents, we honor the tribal nations who have served as caretakers of this land from time immemorial and respectfully acknowledge the ancestral homelands of the Tohono O'odham Nation and the multi-millennial presence of the Pascua Yaqui tribe within Pima County. Consistent with Pima County's commitment to diversity and inclusion, we strive toward building equal-partner relationships with Arizona's tribal nations.



2022

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW
SUMMIT

**Climate Change
and Health Equity**

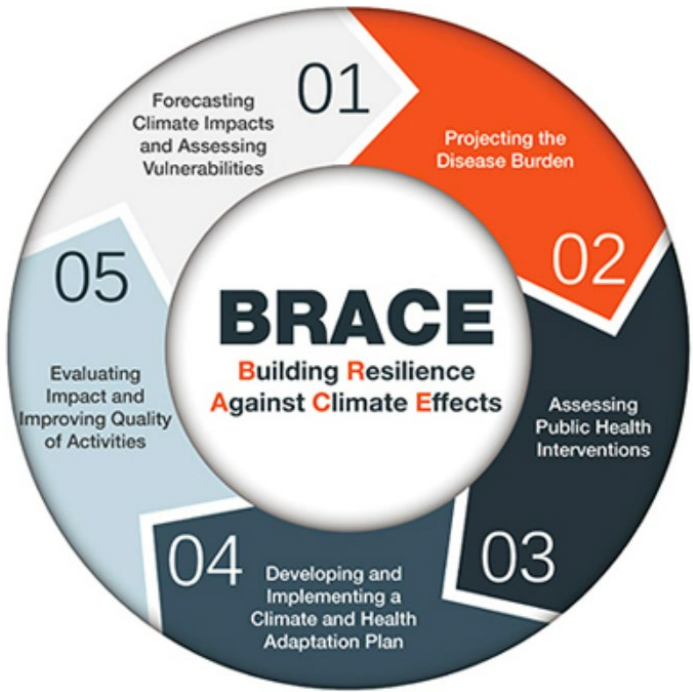
October 2022
Royal Sonesta
Minneapolis, MN



Outline

- Context
 - Grant
 - Hazard and vulnerable populations
 - Geographic and organizational setting
- Design
- Evaluation
- Implementation

Building Resilience Against Climate Effects



- CDC Climate-Ready States & Cities Initiative
- Arizona Department of Health Services, 2 state universities, 4 county health departments.
- 5 year, \$40K/yr
- Follow the BRACE framework
- Help communities prepare for the health effects of climate change.

Extreme heat

2014-21	Deaths
Heat	1,603
Winter weather	1,125
Floods	924
High wind	541
Tornados	381
Hurricanes & tropical storms	260
Wildfires	225
Lightning	194

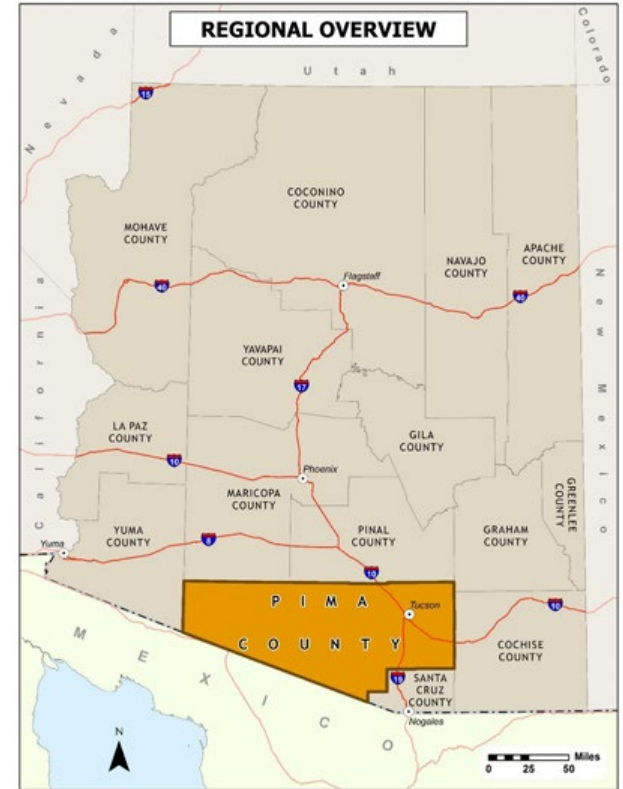
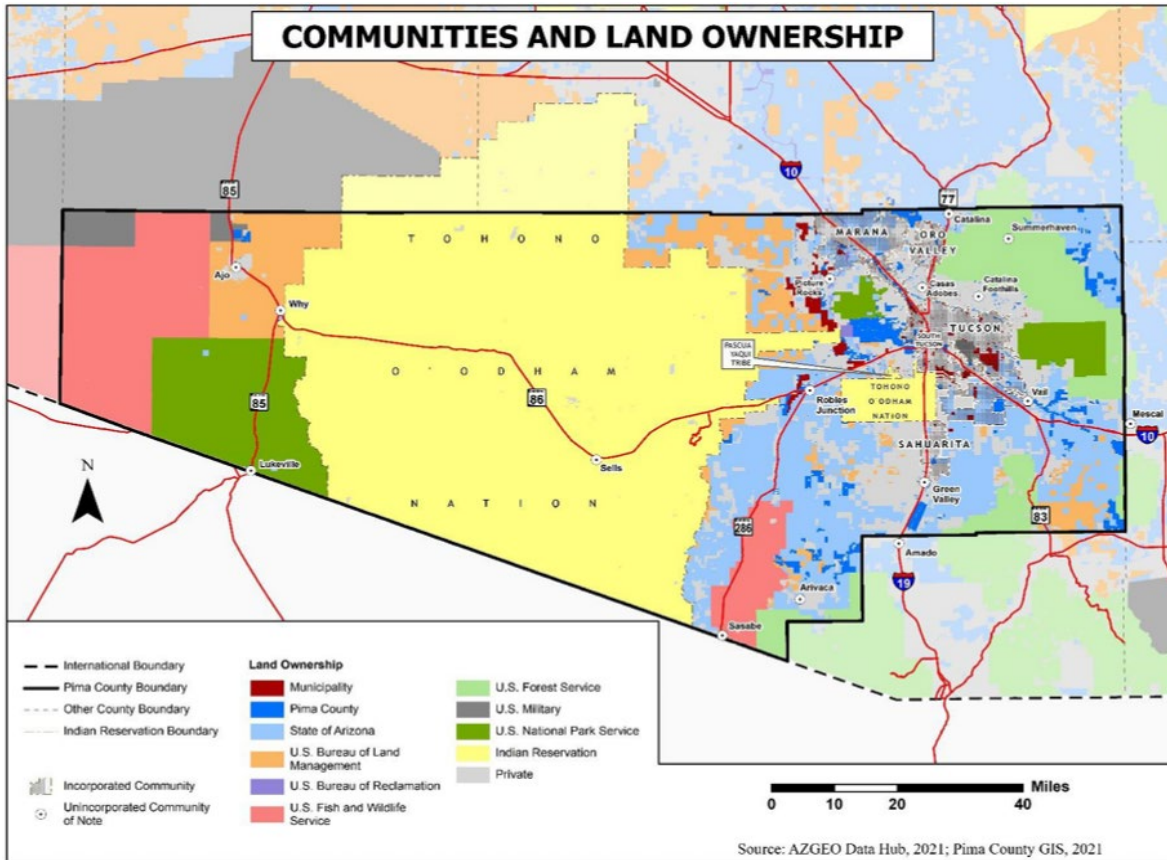
<https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/>

Most vulnerable

- Homeless
- Housed isolated elderly

Pima County heat caused death including undocumented border crossers (UBC)			
Year	Non-UBC	UBC	Total
2022	27	29	56
2021	7	48	55
2020	19	29	48
2019	10	25	35

Pima County Office of Medical Examiner



2022

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW
SUMMIT

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and Health Equity**

October 2022
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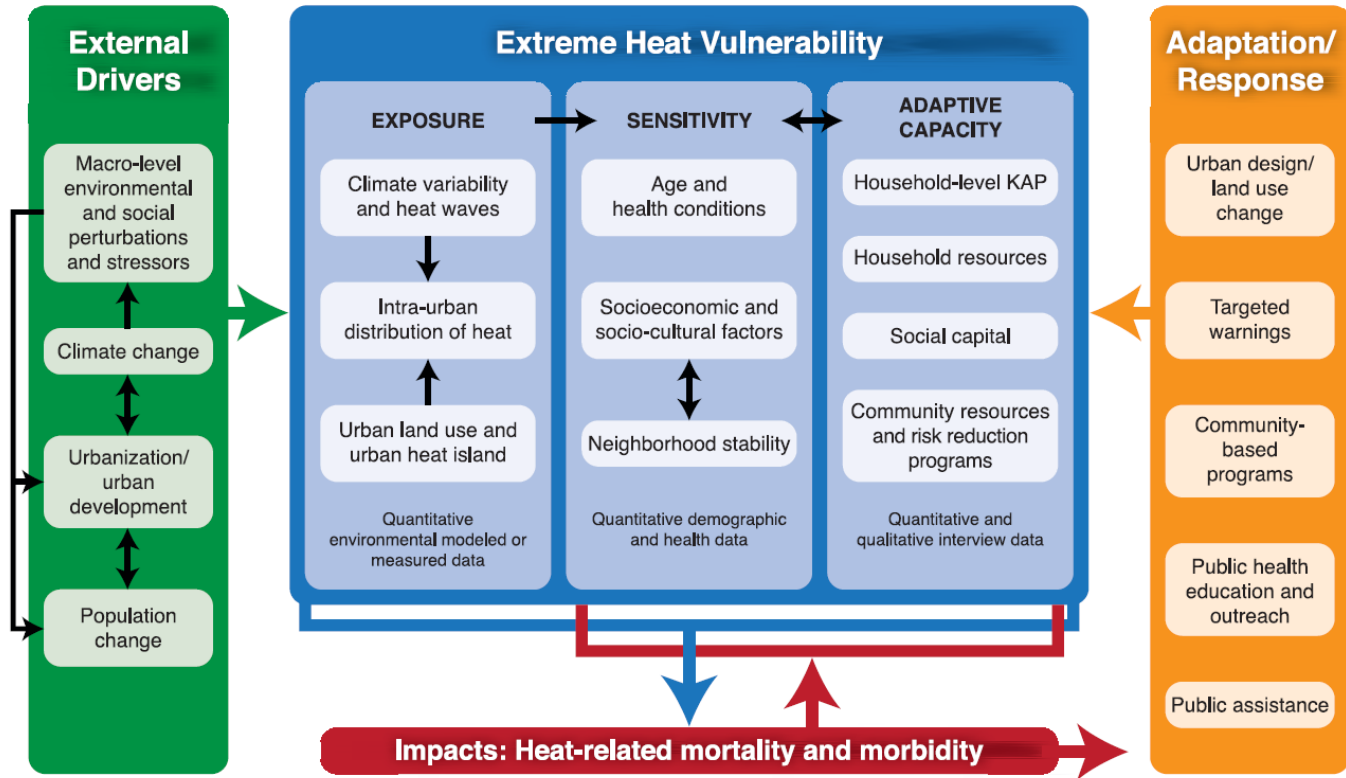


Jurisdiction's calculated priority risk index score for extreme heat in Pima County (2022 Pima County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan)

Participating Jurisdiction	Probability	Magnitude/ Severity	Warning Time	Duration	CPRI Score
Marana	Likely	Limited	12-24 hours	> 1 week	2.65
Oro Valley	Highly Likely	Limited	> 24 hours	> 1 week	2.95
Pascua Yaqui Tribe	Highly Likely	Limited	> 24 hours	< 1 week	2.85
Sahuarita	Highly Likely	Critical	> 24 hours	> 1 week	3.25
Tucson	Highly Likely	Critical	> 24 hours	< 1 week	3.15
Unincorporated Pima County	Highly Likely	Critical	12-24 hours	>1 week	3.40
County-wide average CPRI =					3.04
<i>Jurisdictions in bold chose to mitigate against the hazard</i>					

Design & Evaluation

- Project balance: resources, budget, risk, scope, schedule, quality.
- Learn from others experience.
- ArcGIS Online Survey123 and Hub integrates what 3 organizations doing separately in Maricopa Co BRACE to educate, identify needs, and promote collaboration.
- Collaboration grows at the speed of trust.
- Use proven constructs.

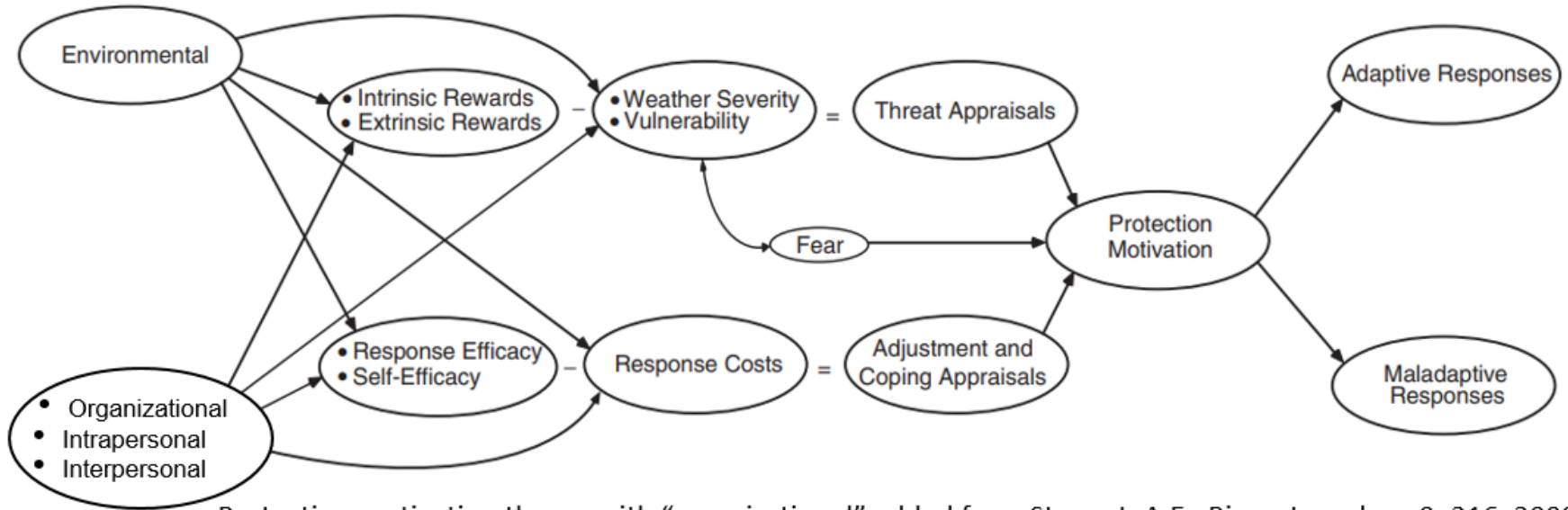


Extreme heat vulnerability analysis framework (Wilhelmi and Hayden, 2010)

Information Sources

Cognitive Mediating Processes

Adaptation Modes



Protection motivation theory with “organizational” added from Stewart, A.E., *Biometeorology* 9: 216, 2009.

Implementation

- Luck favors the prepared
- “Never let a good crisis go to waste”
 - “it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before.”
- Identify win-win situations.

Issues / Opportunities

- Its hot, you have my attention.
- We aren't cooling centers, but we can be heat respite centers.
- Targeted population not welcomed at facilities potentially used for cooling centers because:
 - Regular client's discomfort.
 - Concern for the children using facility.
 - Behaviors including sleeping on floor.
- Where are homeless populations.
- Where are potential facilities to recruit – spatial optimization & NAICS codes.
- Identify housed isolated low income elderly & transport them if needed.



2022

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW
SUMMIT

**Climate Change
and Health Equity**

October 2022
Royal Sonesta
Minneapolis, MN

